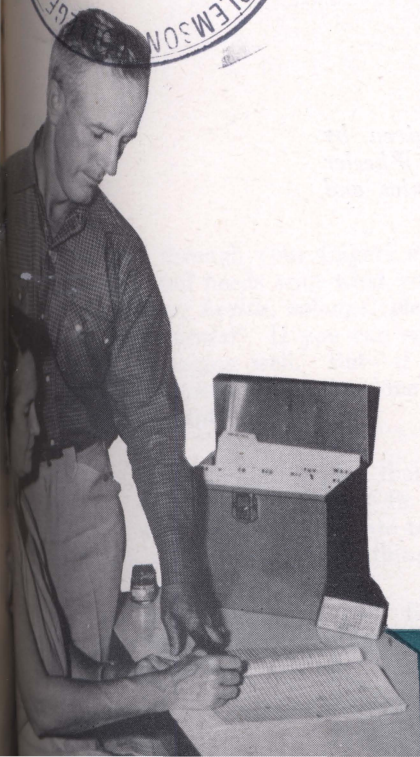




MONEY *Family Style*

- Record
- Plan
- Use



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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Money—Family Style

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Family Planning

DOES MONEY sift through your fingers and vanish? Are you getting your wants and needs with what you have? How about food, clothing, shelter, health, savings, pleasures, contributions, education and investments? If you can say everything is satisfactory, you are managing well. But—if some phase of living is being neglected, something can be done about it. Look into your money management.

You are not likely to find a plan that your family can use without change. Spending plans must fit the individual or the family, and they must be kept up-to-date to be satisfactory. No two families need or want the same things from their money.

If you want to be master of your finances, manage your money while it is yours. Wise use depends on making advance

decisions and careful choices before you spend. Unplanned spending may lead to insecurity, debt and unhappiness. By thinking through a spending plan, a family can save time, money, energy and other resources. Things seem to fall in line according to their importance when family members discuss their desires.

A spending plan is not magic and it cannot work miracles. It does go a long way toward family happiness and the accomplishment of family goals. Money is a family affair, and good management offers many opportunities to develop clear thinking. When children and parents join in developing a suitable spending plan they are off to a good start. However, a good plan seldom results from one effort. It requires trying, testing and revising. Even then, the plan must be flexible in order to serve to the best advantage.



The W. A. Crawfords have found it profitable for the entire family to participate in keeping records and to plan for spending. Left to right, Gwendolyn, John, Bill, Jerry, Mrs. Crawford and Mr. Crawford.

What Are the Advantages?

Just what do we accomplish by this type of family planning? It could mean:

1. Better relations, more democratic spirit
2. Greater understanding on the part of all members
3. Aid to having more and worrying less
4. Making better decisions by the family
5. A feeling of security for the family
6. Spending needs more nearly balanced
7. Better plans for the future
8. Better educational opportunities for family members
9. Greater community development (as other families use the plan)

Now you see why no two family plans are the same, why each family must make its own. Daily and longtime goals are different. Your idea of "the good life" is not the same as another.

Planning income, expenses and family goals and making the plans work may not be an easy assignment at first. But if you sincerely try it out all the way for a few years, you will profit from it, and your children will receive the training to establish a strong home of their own. Life is a result of some kind of planning, or the lack of it.

The last two forms in this publication, pages 14 and 15, are guides for recording the money used during the year. A look at these totals is necessary to get a complete picture. How do the estimates you made compare with your spending?

Make and Use an Inventory

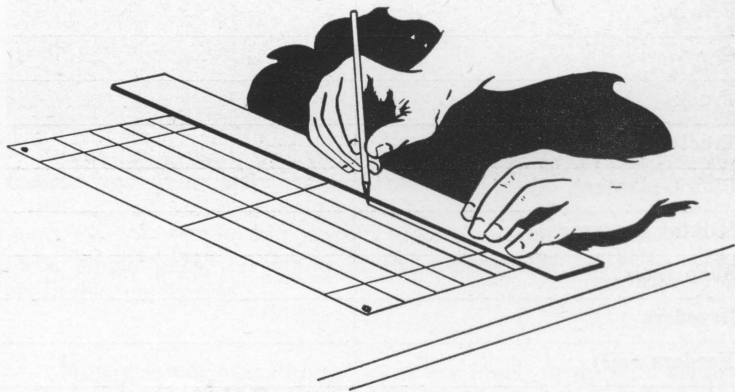
If living costs have worried you, look at your situation thoroughly. Begin by taking a careful inventory of your possessions—land, livestock, home, furnishings, investment features—and other resources. Be as detailed as you wish. You may have property that is not worth its upkeep. You may have more than you realize. You have possessions that could not be bought at any price. Begin where you are today.

Your inventory will differ from that of any other family; so will your needs. Placing a money value on property is a step that must be guided by the father and mother. In a family discussion all members get a better understanding of monetary values. The value of the pig, calf, bicycle or red wagon takes on new meaning.

The inventory will need to be kept up-to-date. Investments change. Land, livestock, housing and equipment are bought or sold. Dollar values change. Begin by getting a record book. It can be obtained from some insurance company, a government agency, a bank, an office supply store or a book store.

Include in your record book everything that has to do with family welfare and involves much spending. Include the cash value of insurance policies, bonds or other investments. The suggested form on page 6 can be used as a guide. Itemize as needed.

You may prepare one yourself from a $7\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10" notebook or looseleaf binder, using thumb tabs for dividers. A home-made book often is preferred to a printed one. Using a ruler, mark off the pages according to your needs; prepare space to list all of your property and investments.



INVENTORY

Possessions—Property	Value January 1	Value December 1	Examples of Family Resources
Residence			Abilities (kinds)
Furnishings (itemize)			Interests
Service building			Knowledge
Tenant houses			Energy
Land			Time
Water system			Money
Barns			Community facilities
Fencing			
Car			
Truck			
Tractor			
Plows, planters, other			
Milking equipment			
Shop tools			
Brooders			(Use this column to list the personal qualities of family members that can be developed.)
Feeders (all)			
Feed and seed			
Livestock (itemize)			

Use as many pages as you need for details.

Record How You Make and Use Your Money

After the inventory is completed, you are ready for the next step in good management. If you kept a record last year of income and expense, it will be easier to make a spending plan. Records show how money was used. Many people keep records but do not use them to plan future spending.

If you have not kept records, perhaps you would like to start. Get all available bills, receipts and canceled checks to estimate how much money was spent for the different phases of farm or ranch operation and family living. Figure the cost of your needs and desires and compare it with your anticipated income. The comparison may cause you to consider changing some practices.

You may find it convenient to keep separate record books for income and for production and family living expense. Some families find a single book more satisfactory.

If you make your own record books, the following suggestions may be helpful. Rule as many pages as you need to record income and monthly production expense. Provide a page on which to bring all monthly totals of expenses and income together



Gwendolyn, John and Bill Crawford record expenditures and income from their 4-H demonstrations.

on a single page. A study of the results will show the most profitable enterprise.

Money is not everything, but it has much to do with family welfare, peace of mind, happiness and advancements. Its value is not altogether the amount you make but how you use it. A slight financial pressure sharpens the wits. A meager capital mixed with energy, imagination, common sense and sincerity can work wonders.

[illegible]

Estimate same month next year

PAGE EIGHT

MONTHLY INCOME

(Make columns suitable for your sources of income.)

[illegible]

Use 12 pages if desired.

TOTAL PRODUCTION EXPENSES

(List your expense items)	Jan.		Feb.		March		April		May		June		July		Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	This year's total	Next year's estimate
Labor																					
Bldgs. & fences																					
Mach. repair or purchases																					
Auto																					
Tractor																					
Feed & seed																					
Livestock																					
Poultry																					
Fertilizer																					
Total																					
Estimate next yr.																					

TOTAL INCOME

Next year's estimate (List your income sources)	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	This year's total	Next year's estimate
Employment														
Cotton														
Grain														
Peanuts														
Potatoes														
Dairy Products														
Cattle														
Hogs—others														
Poultry—eggs														
Total														
Estimate														

Good records make this page valuable. Which activity gives you the greatest profit? Plan your vacation according to season's activities.

Investments, Fixed and Special Expenditures

For a true picture of how some of your money is used, prepare a page to record fixed or special expenditures. These may be debts, installment payments, taxes, various kinds of insurance, social security, contributions, investments and savings. The

larger payments may be distributed throughout the year. This page, when completed, helps one realize how necessary good management is to maintain the desired quality of family living.

Items	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Contributions													
Savings and investments													
Rent or property payments													
Social security													
Life insurance													
Health insurance													
Property insurance													
Taxes—property													
Taxes—income													
Installment payments													
Other													

Use as many lines as are necessary. Distribute large or annual bills throughout the year.

Good Family Living—Does It Pay?

Money contributes to the welfare of the family only if its use gains satisfactions. It must be used wisely if the level of living is to remain desirable.

Sound money management in homemaking is as important as in any other business. The *use* made of the income, not just the *size*, is the secret of successful management.

In no place do you have to watch expenses more than in *regular buying*. Such spending must be controlled, or it runs riot. Decide on longtime goals and list them. Your basic needs are:

1. Good spiritual, mental and physical health
2. Adequate food
3. A good farm or ranch and a comfortable home, free of debt
4. Enough security for retirement
5. Adequate education for family members
6. A trip for the family every year or two
7. Close family ties
8. Good community living, social participation

Plan your money a year in advance. Decide how you will earn your money, what you will do with it, then keep records as you use it. Knowing what you want is the first step toward reaching your goal. A good plan looks *ahead*; gets ready for the big bills, taxes, insurance and investments. It looks *back*; pays debts promptly. It considers daily needs and wants. It provides a current picture of the family financial situation. It results in a better division among the different needs and a fairer distribution of money among family members. It helps everyone

to develop better spending habits, promotes cooperation, understanding and appreciation.

For this section of your family living-expense record you will need 12 pages, one for each month, on which you can rule divisions for the different phases. A look at the monthly totals of "fixed expenses" subtracted from your income will show you the necessity of a living-expense record. You must plan in advance for the money that is left if you are to cover family items. These will be food, clothing, housing and operations, transportation, medical care, recreation, education and gifts. You may include savings and contributions in this section.

For different reasons some families have not yet kept accounts. Some do not have a convenient place to keep and work on books and records. Some have not yet worked out a suitable record system. Some keep putting it off. These families could, however, benefit greatly from keeping records.

Accounting *may* lead to ways to increase the income; it will lead to better use of all resources. Your family can make a spending plan that will help you get what is most important for all of you. If you need to reduce your cost of living, consider the following suggestions:

1. Produce, prepare and conserve more food and feed.
2. Make many articles of clothing; make over garments.
3. Repair, refinish and reupholster furniture.
4. Repair farm and home equipment for more use.
5. Practice safety methods in work and play.
6. Make more of your gifts for others. Have more fun at home.
7. Shop with a plan; don't buy on an impulse.

FAMILY LIVING AND PLANS—RECORD OF MONEY USED DURING THE MONTH (Make a sheet for each month.)

[illegible]

*Includes rent, upkeep, furnishings, equipment. Use 12 pages if desired. Provide clothing record space for each family member if desired. Did each member live within his allowance? Watch the months of heavy spending.

RECORD OF MONEY USED DURING THE YEAR

Month	Food	Clothing	Housing*	Medical and dental	Gifts and personal	Transportation	Contributions	Education and development	Recreation	Year's total	Next year's estimate
January											
February											
March											
April											
May											
June											
July											
August											
September											
October											
November											
December											
Total											
Next year's estimate											

*Includes rent, upkeep, furnishings, equipment.

